

Appln No. 09/885,307
Amdt date May 29, 2008
Reply to Office action of January 29, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio characteristic information indicate subject matter content for the first and second audio pieces.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio pieces include music.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio pieces include voice.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio pieces include advertisements.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the method further comprising:
receiving a user selection of the particular theme; and
identifying the user preference information associated with the particular theme.
- 7-8. (Canceled)

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9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio pieces and the first and second audio characteristic information are received over a radio broadcast network.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio pieces and the first and second audio characteristic information are received over a computer network.

12-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first and second audio characteristic information indicate subject matter content for the first and second audio pieces.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first and second audio pieces include music.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first and second audio pieces include voice.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first and second audio pieces include advertisements.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the system further comprising:
means for receiving a user selection of the particular theme.

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30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first and second audio pieces and the first and second audio characteristic information are received over a radio broadcast network.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the first and second audio pieces and the first and second audio characteristic information are received over a computer network.

34-56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein each of the first and second audio characteristic information is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the corresponding audio piece.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising:
receiving the first and second audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the first and second audio pieces.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising:
receiving the first and second audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the first and second audio pieces.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the stored audio pieces are played according to customized playback times.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the first and second audio pieces are broadcast over the first and second audio channels based on their broadcast times.

64. (Currently Amended) In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:

- receiving user audio preference information;
- receiving first audio characteristic information for a first audio piece;
- receiving second audio characteristic information for a second audio piece;
- selecting the first and second audio pieces based on a comparison of respectively the first and second audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information;
- identifying first and second audio channels configured to respectively deliver the first and second audio pieces;
- identifying first and second delivery start times in which the first and second audio channels are configured to deliver the first and second audio pieces;
- automatically tuning to the first audio channel for receiving the selected first audio piece based on the identified first audio channel and the identified first delivery start time;
- automatically tuning, without user intervention since the tuning to the first audio channel, to the second audio channel for receiving the selected second audio pieces based on the identified second audio channel and the identified second delivery start time;
- temporarily storing in a buffer as the customized audio program the received first and second audio pieces; and

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outputting the temporarily stored first and second audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition which invokes playback of the customized audio program without switching from the first audio channel to the second audio channel during the playback.

65-69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein each of the first and second audio characteristic information is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the corresponding audio piece.

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78 further comprising:
means for receiving the first and second audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the first and second audio pieces.

73. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78 further comprising:
means for receiving the first and second audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the first and second audio pieces.

74. (Canceled)

75. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein the customized audio program includes customized playback times.

76. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein the first and second audio pieces are configured to be broadcast over the first and second audio channels based on their broadcast times.

77. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein the sequencer is configured to detect the playback condition and is configured to invoke the output to play the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to the detected playback condition.

78. (Currently Amended) A user station comprising:
one or more inputs for receiving user audio preference information and for receiving first audio characteristic information for a first audio piece and second audio characteristic information for a second audio piece;
a preference tuner configured to:
select the first and second audio pieces based on a comparison of respectively the first and second audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information;
identify first and second audio channels configured to respectively deliver the first and second audio pieces; and
identify first and second delivery start times in which the first and second audio channels are configured to deliver the first and second audio pieces;
an audio tuner coupled to the preference tuner, the audio tuner being configured to:
automatically tune to the first audio channel for receiving the selected first audio piece based on the identified first audio channel and the identified first delivery start time; and
automatically tune, without user intervention since the tuning to the first audio channel, to the second audio channel for receiving the selected second audio piece based on the identified second audio channel and the identified second delivery start time;
a buffer for temporarily storing as the customized audio program the received first and second audio pieces;

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a sequencer coupled to the buffer for controlling playback of the customized audio program; and

an output for playing the first and second audio pieces as customized audio program in response to a playback condition without switching from the first audio channel to the second audio channel during the playing.

79-80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein the first and second audio characteristic information indicate subject matter content for the first and second audio pieces.

82. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein the first and second audio pieces and the first and second audio characteristic information are received over a radio broadcast network.

83. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 78, wherein the first and second audio pieces and the first and second audio characteristic information are received over a computer network.

84. (Currently Amended) A system for creating a customized audio program comprising:

means for receiving user audio preferences information;
means for receiving first audio characteristic information for a first audio piece;
means for receiving second audio characteristic information for a second audio piece;
means for selecting the first and second audio pieces based on a comparison of respectively the first and second audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information;

means for identifying first and second audio channels configured to respectively deliver the first and second audio pieces;

means for identifying first and second delivery start times in which the first and second audio channels are configured to deliver the first and second audio pieces;

means for automatically tuning to the first audio channel for receiving the selected first audio piece based on the identified first audio channel and the identified first delivery start time;

means for automatically tuning, without user intervention since the tuning to the first audio channel, to the second audio channel for receiving based on the identified second audio channel and the identified second delivery start time;

means for temporarily storing in a buffer as the customized audio program the received first and second audio pieces; and

means for outputting the temporarily stored first and second audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition which invokes playback of the customized audio program without switching from the first audio channel to the second audio channel during the playback.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the automatic tuning to the second audio channel occurs during the playback of a portion of the customized audio program.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the automatic tuning to the second audio channel does not interrupt the playback of the customized audio program.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

88. (New) In a communications network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:

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receiving a user's musical preference information;
receiving a plurality of musical pieces transmitted via an audio channel, each of the plurality of musical pieces including music identification information;
retrieving musical characteristic information for the plurality of musical pieces;
selectively downloading one or more of the plurality of musical pieces based on a comparison of the user's musical preference information with the musical characteristic information of each of the plurality of musical pieces, wherein the selectively downloading downloads an entirety of a first one of the plurality of musical pieces that is determined to satisfy the user's musical preference, but not an entirety of a second one of the plurality of musical pieces that is determined to not satisfy the user's musical preference; and
generating a playlist based in the selectively downloaded musical pieces.

89. (New) In a communications network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:

automatically processing audio signals of a plurality of musical pieces and computing, for each of the plurality of musical pieces, values for a plurality of musical characteristics based on the automatically processed audio signals, wherein the plurality of musical characteristics includes tempo;

storing the values for the plurality of musical characteristics, including the value of the tempo, in an audio vector generated for each of the plurality of musical pieces;

receiving a user's musical preference information;

selectively downloading one or more of the plurality of musical pieces based on a comparison of the user's musical preference information with the audio vector generated for each of the plurality of musical pieces, wherein the selectively downloading downloads an entirety of a first one of the plurality of musical pieces that is determined to satisfy the user's musical preference, but not an entirety of a second one of the plurality of musical pieces that is determined to not satisfy the user's musical preference; and

generating a playlist based in the selectively downloaded musical pieces.